REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-15 stand rejected.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 13-15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a) Regarding claim 5, "said electric camera" should be changed to "said electronic camera" to clearly refer "an electronic camera" of claim 3.

b) Regarding claims 13-15, the claims recite "said instructions". However, claim 12, which claims 13-15 depend on, recite "instruction". Thus, "said instructions" should be changed to "said instruction" or "instruction" to "instructions".

Applicants have amended the claims objected to in a manner believed responsive to the Examiner's objections. Applicants have changed "instruction" to "instructions" in claim 12.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1-10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a system comprising several computing devices interoperating over a communication network for accessing image media files. Applicants believe that these clarifying amendments are directed to statutory subject matter, and so Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1 -10 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4, 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, and now believe that the amendments render the claims allowable under this statute, and so Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1 -10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph be withdrawn. The dependency of claim 4 has been amended so that claim 4 depends from claim 2. Claim 12 has been amended to recite information "for allowing controlled access."

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Knowlton et al. US Patent No. 6,057,842 ("Knowlton" hereinafter).

Knowlton describes visual links 142 corresponding to HTML documents indexed in database entries 126, see col. 10, lines 52-62. Knowlton's visual links 142 include alphanumeric information including a universal resource locator (URL) 128 and may include a title 130, a text 132, date 134, and keywords 136. Knowlton goes on to say that the visual link 142 can also contain a graphic icon 144 which is generated or extracted from the graphics and text information present in the corresponding HTML document, or other type of file, by visual links capture engine 138A. The visual links automatic capture engine 138A indexes web pages and creates the visual links 142 from HTML documents in the database entries 126.

Thus, Knowlton makes no reference or suggestion that the text information is "unique to a particular user including information allowing access…" as required by claim 1, or to "information unique to said user, and information for allowing controlled access by a designated unique third party" as required by claim 11. In fact, Knowlton teaches away from this as the invention described in Knowlton is only useful when the visual links are provided to solve the problem of providing access to large volumes of information across local computers and the internet to users of computer systems that need to find such information. There is no benefit acknowledged by Knowlton to providing information unique to a user since the document being searched for therein is of interest to the general population. Furthermore, access in the form of permission is implicit in the Knowlton reference.

In other words, if Knowlton's document has been indexed and is in the database entries 126, permission has already been granted and therefore isn't

unique to the visual link 142 that is created from the indexed entry. Whereas, in the presently claimed invention, the permission is explicitly required to access personal imaging content that isn't visible to the entire internet, and the permission is provided expressly for the purpose of providing a user the ability to enable a unique third party (e.g. a fulfillment provider) access to the asset in question without further involvement of the user.

Furthermore, Knowlton explains that the graphic icon is provided to users (plural) as it enables them to more readily and easily recognize a web site, document, or file, etc., see col. 54, lines 28-34. Hence, Knowlton is elaborating on a fairly common construct of a visual representation of a web site, document, etc., and how that makes it easier for users (plural, in the sense of users on the internet) to remember and identify.

Clearly, Knowlton does not teach that the visual link contains information that is "unique to a particular user including information allowing access…" which is then provided to a unique third party for allowing access to the digital media file. Therefore, a reference such as Knowlton that deals with a common type of "allowing access" does not meet the limitations of independent claims 1 and 11. In the presently pending claims, allowing access doesn't merely refer to enabling the mass market user to find my personal imaging content on my machine. Rather, it is claimed as a form of permission for a unique user to whom the permission is given in the form of the digital media file with electronic icon and access information.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 9, 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,057,842 in view of Angiulo et al. US Patent No. 6,275,829 (Angiulo hereinafter).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton in view of Tomat et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,784,925 (Tomat hereafter).

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton and Tomat, in view of Anderson, US Patent No. 7,287,088 (Anderson hereinafter).

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton, Tomat and Anderson, in view of Stumer, US Publication No. 2002/0035630 (Stumer hereinafter).

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton, Tomat and Anderson, in view of Uchiyama, US Patent No. 6,731,341 (Uchiyama hereinafter).

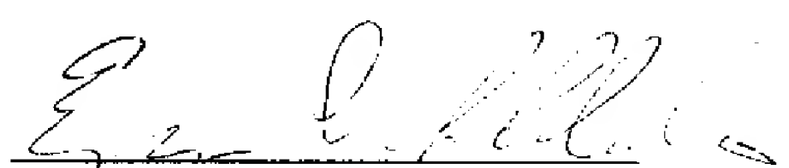
Because Knowlton fails to teach the limitations of independent claims 1 and 11, as explained above with respect to the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102, Knowlton also fails as a primary reference for rejecting the claims depending therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.